Annotated Bibliography

For my research project I decided to continue from my position paper and explore further the idea of police brutality. To be more specific I wanted to really discover when did police brutality start. Another point I wanted to investigate is why is this issue still plague not only America but the entire world. My final point that I want to investigate was is there a solution to police brutality and if so why hasn’t it been applied to society. During the course of the project though I was overwhelmed with the instances and statistics I had located. But through my sources I feel I have discovered an adequate answer for each one of my points and I hope that the answers will be visible and adequate enough for my audience when I present my final portion of the project.


In my first source I chose a law review. This law review is entitled Police Brutality and Citizen Complaints. It was written by Harvey Gee. In this law review it discusses the vast majority of police interactions that are routine instances of police brutality that go unnoticed. Another theme in the law review is that young black males have been targeted by law enforcement under the guise of investigative profiling. In the law review the author informs you that law enforcement officials engage in racial discrimination. Officers would say that their main argument is that the majority of criminal perpetrators are Blacks. As you continue on reading you find out that police brutality is not only a problem for African Americans but they are also to blame for police brutality. The authors reasoning for that statement was that police brutality occurs because of random brutal attacks of law enforcement officers as they pull over African Americans. The author goes on to offer measures that might eradicate the problem of police brutality. One is being hiring more individuals of color that are familiar with the area in which they patrol. As you continue on reading the author introduces the idea that a committee should be established designated for complaints run by groups of civilians that are not affiliated with the police department. He then informs you that such a committee exists in San Francisco, where citizens voted on a police oversight reform measure, requiring more accountability from the police department. Finally as you read on you discover different complaints individuals have and the action that was taken.

After reading the law review it became more obvious that there was a solution for police brutality. I feel like the author offered valid points for their argument. The best thing about that law review was that it didn’t have a biased opinion. It argues for both sides. In one hand the author would say that police brutality needs to be stop and that it has to stop targeting individuals of color. Then on the other side the author argues that one of the main reasons that police brutality is targeted at African Americans is that after
countless attacks made on law enforcement officers that they are just fed up, and instead of being attacked they become the attacker which I believe holds some truth to it. The entire law review was very inspirational and I recommend it to be read by all that may decide for themselves to investigate police brutality.


In my next resource I chose another law review. This law review is by Theresa A. Martinez. The title of it is *Racial Profiling Symposium: Perceptions of Racial Profiling*. In the law review Theresa discusses the many definitions of racial profiling. Theresa describes profiling as, “the use of race as a key factor in police decisions to stop and interrogate citizen.” She says it also be defined as, “the use of race as a criterion in police decision making during discretionary traffic and field interrogation stops. Theresa continues on in the law review comparing Rap music, racial profiling, and police brutality. She says that in the lyrical message of rap music, the government, the health care system, the dominant media, and the police are presented as part of the problem facing minority communities. She also says that police brutality, racism, and harassment form the political core of male rappers social criticism, and lyrics that effectively and cleverly address these issues carry a great deal of social weight in rap music. She then goes on to say that age isn’t a factor when it comes to racial profiling. In one of the stories she informs readers about an individual who at the age of 40 decided to purchase a Volvo with tinted windows, which was a mistake because he would always get pulled over for speeding by the same officer eventually the judge that the man was going to instructed the officers not to pull the man anymore. The reason that the man was getting pulled over was because of racial profiling.

In this law review what I liked most was the in depth view of the music that the African American culture listens to. In her in depth analysis of the culture and its music she said that the music caused most of the hate that people have for law enforcement individuals. With that statement I totally disagree what I feel like she is saying is that the music that an individual listens to desensitizes them and forces that individual to behave in the manor of the music. But after numerous of testify has been proven that what you listen to or what you watch doesn’t truly affect you. Another thing that I enjoyed about the law review was the story of racial profiling with the 40 and the officer that kept pulling him over.


This picture was taken right here at MSU by Claire Cummings. In this picture she was comparing past riots and the so called riot here at MSU this past March. The writer tells its readers that during the entire night of the game people weren’t causing any trouble they
were just in a large crowd and the moment the police saw this it ignited a fire really quickly. Anyone that was outside was immediately tear gassed even if they had nothing to do with the disturbance. The writer continues on to say that what the officers did was uncalled for and that they used excessive force. She didn’t use the word police brutality but I feel that is the perfect word to describe the Friday event. This was a prime example of profiling. The writer said they used over 120 tear gas canisters and arrested 41. Claire said that the event was provoked basically by fear alone. It was 250 officers on duty in riot gear, 15 fires were started, and 3,000 people. She went on to say that no problem would occur if the police didn’t provoke the crowd.

My personal opinion about the whole situation itself is that it is ridiculous. I personally have never been in a riotous crowd before but from what I have read and heard from the individuals that were out there on that night. The police were way out of line. I agree that the crowd might have been excessive and that the police should have made the crowd leave but to shoot over 120 tear gas can at the crowd was unnecessary. I am positive there could have been a more subtle approach to get the crowd to leave. This to me was not only police brutality and profiling.


With this picture there is no true author but I retrieved this through a google link. It is the tape from the Rodney King beating. If you have not seen the tape yet it is pretty brutal. For those of you who don’t know who Rodney King is I can tell he is no saint. Time and time again this man has had encounters with the law for multiple reasons. But regardless of the criminal record of Rodney King he did not deserve to be brutally beaten the way that he was even if he did try to run from the police. I don’t think there was any real reason as to why this anonymous person posted this picture. But I will tell you that this picture finally changed some things with police officers. For a long time police officers have been harassing individuals most being African American individuals and no one would believe it. The moment that tape was released police officers were terrified to even touch someone o a stop but lately police officers have slip into their old ways. Whoever released the tape should be
considered a hero because they had enough courage to stand up to a government and didn’t back down.

To me this is one of my most disappointing examples of police brutality. Not only does it give an example but it just terrifies me to ever drive my car because I might be at risk to get brutally beaten. This picture to me shows no hope for any ethnicity except for Caucasians and it really hurts to say that. Now this video was taken in 1991 and it is 2005 so it’s been 15 years and there is no telling how many more situations like this have occurred in that interval of time. Now this picture isn’t all bad to me, there were some positives to it. One of the positives being that this gave America a wake up call, one that was needed for a while at that time. And now I can say that people are a little more aware of what’s going on with police and civilians.


My next picture can be found on millions of t-shirts I do not know who design it but the t-shirt was designed shirt to graphically inform people about the levels of repression and brutality directed at people exercising their constitutional rights of free speech and assembly these days. Most people will not believe mere descriptions of police violence because we have been raised to believe that the police are always the good guys. Most prime time television shows are police shows. Then there’s Cops and other shows that glorify the police and celebrate their forceful nature. So, there's a little bit of double thinking going on here as well The designer recommends people see the violent and totalitarian nature of modern police forces for themselves via photographs and video footage which leave no question that overwhelming and out of proportion force is being used on citizens in the US at protests and during drug raids, and on the streets of America every day. He invites readers of the website to go to the Indymedia websites to find such footage and photographs. The corporate media by and large is filled with lies and pro police propaganda. They never say "non-violent protestors" anymore; instead it’s always "violent protestors", even though it’s a lie most of the time.
With this picture I especially like it because it’s one of those forbidden things. You know one of the things you never speak about. I think the creator of this picture is the most courageous individual. It’s about time people used their freedom of speech in a positive fashion. When you take a look at the picture for the first time I’m sure a lot of you say wow whatever the guy did must have been wrong. And then I rebuttal with no matter offense this man caused it’s a little thing in this country called inalienable rights and no one deserves to be attacked like that.


This picture right here was found through google. The photograph was taken by Steven Kasher. It was from a book called a photography history. This picture was taking during 1965. The time period known to many as the **CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**. At that time the U.S.A was segregated for **BLACKS** and **WHITES**. During the time frame as the picture shows Africans Americans were trying peaceful protesting. Where a group of well dressed African Americans would walk into white only areas and sit peacefully while they were harassed by whites and officers. In the picture to your right you will see an African American man be attacked by a police dog just for standing there. Now I know this picture may be a little off topic but it still portrays police brutality and only occurred 40 years ago. But you know what truly makes this picture even more depressing is that this was not the only incident. There have been nearly thousands of attacks on African Americans by police officers during the civil rights. Whether it be beaten with a stick, or hosed, or attacked by a dog. I am just glad that even though incidents like that occurred, that our nation has somewhat learned from it and can lead us into a new millennium with equality and love.

For my evaluation of the source I think that this photographed right here could not have relayed my point any better. You know how a picture says a thousand words, well this one says millions its just one of those things you don’t believe until you see it. It’s a depressing picture but it’s just something you have to learn from and never let happen again. But what’s most depressing about the picture is that children in grammar school or high school don’t get a true education about issues like this. I believe students get one
chapter in grammar school and two possibly in high school. I recommend that everyone in the audience take some free time of their own and research the civil rights movement.


This picture here was found on a syllabus made by a teacher for an African studies course. Her name is Johnie H. Scott. The picture also was taken during the time of the Rodney King trial and L.A. riots. This picture here shows the reaction of a nation in turmoil when a fellow American is being treated as if they have no rights. On April 29, 1992, the officers were found not guilty of crimes against King. Following the announcement of the verdict, riots erupt throughout the city of Los Angeles resulting in 53 deaths, some 10,000 arrests, 2,300 injuries, more than 1,000 buildings lost to fire, thousands of jobs lost and an estimated cost to the city of $1 billion in damages. The riots lasted several days. That is just ridiculous. I’m not saying that the riots were appropriate but nonetheless people rioted because they were wronged by the judicial system. The whole situation could have been avoided if the fair and just law system would have reprimanded the four officers instead of them being acquitted of any charges. Then once those officers were acquitted other officers across the nation realized that they could use as much force as their heart desire. And that’s where police brutality comes from.

In my analysis of the photograph I was slightly upset. I know that the riot was wrong, but the action that the police took to stop the riot was not the best decision they could have made. First off where everything went wrong was when the jury as I said before freed the 4 police officers. They should have given them some sort of punishment even if the victim was wrong they being the officers used excessive force and calls for immediate action. Second mistake that was made by the Los Angeles policing unit was, you do not stop a riot the same way you caused it because that just prolong the riot. And that’s what makes the photograph so much better, because you get to see how officers respond to situations they don’t know how to handle.

The author of this book, police brutality is Kelly C. Anderson, who is a historian and an award-winning book designer. She is a coauthor of numerous social studies textbooks and state histories. She graduated from Columbia College in Missouri and studied law and history at the University of Missouri. To describe the book more, it offers ideas as to what police brutality is. In one of the chapters, the author offers this idea about police brutality, “Police brutality is a term used to describe the excessive use of force.” In this book, you receive so much information. They offer you a wide range of facts. Also, you learn that police brutality can become a major issue, especially when the police are from a different social group as the people they police. The author tries to offer situations that explain the whole dilemma. In such a situation, the general population may view the police as oppressors, while the police may begin to view the population as criminals. The author finally tells his audience that brutality does not only apply to unreasonable physical force, but to threats and assault, as well. The purpose of this book is to address the issue of police brutality, explain it from an officer’s standpoint, explain the different types of brutality, and offer solutions.

My evaluation of the source is I felt that it was a well-organized book with deep and thought-provoking ideas. I enjoy how the writer starts off with how much force constitutes police brutality. Then she describes to her audience what goes on through a police officer’s perspective. After that, she describes the different types of police brutality whether it be race brutality or gender brutality. The next topic that the author touches on is the results of police brutality, and finally, she offers us solutions on for the issue. I just love how the author discusses every point thoroughly and gives the audience a good insight to police brutality.


*Blue vs. Black* is the story of the conflict that goes on every day in the cities of America, between police officers and black citizens. The author lets the audience know that the realities of the conflict can be ugly, the circumstances painful. The goal of the author is to set a platform for national conversations about solutions. It also talks about the main conflict with police officers and African Americans. This issue right here was one of the authors main points. He really evaluated the type of relationship that has been between the two. The author informs his audience that the solution for the sour relationship is pretty much hopeless and that the relationship has had so much trouble that it can never be reestablished. Another point that was brought up in the book was how children view the whole situation. The author describes a situation where children see officers harass other individuals and children just view this as the way the world works. This of course is sad.

In my evaluation of the source I wasn’t uplifted by the source very much. It did however, give me the information I needed but the source to me just didn’t really stick out
to me. I thought the book was very informative. I enjoyed the stories that came and the begging of each chapter. I also enjoy the solutions that the author presents to the audience. I guess what it was really missing was it didn’t have reasons for why there is such an issue of police brutality. He tells you all of the issues with police brutality but he doesn’t give you the explanation why the issue exists.


In this book the author describes to the audience that the use of force is an integral part of a law enforcement officer's job, particularly when arresting criminal suspects. No one disputes that police should be permitted to protect themselves and others from threats to safety, but what is often disputed is an officer's assessment of a threat and the level of force selected to counter it. As you continue on you learn that as a general principle, the level of force used should be tailored to the nature of the threat that prompted its use. As a constitutional principle, the level of force must be reasonable not the most minimal level possible, just reasonable. Also as a common law principle, there should be some warning beforehand by the police before force is used; however, since *Amato v. U.S.* 1982, this warning is only required before deadly force. This book offers an eclectic amount of cases and decisions about police brutality. The author really reaches deep explain to the audience why an officer has to use force. And in most cases the situations that the author presents a story it does require an exceptional amount of force.

With this evaluation I have to say that the author Howard Rahtz really changed my perspective about police and their use of force. He really explained and offered very good examples of why officers need to use certain amounts of force. Now he didn’t say that excessive force was necessary, but to some extent police to have to exert some force otherwise people will not respect the police and the crime rate would shoot up. Everything that Rahtz said was completely accurate and understandable. But not only did he break down the different types of force, he also offer valid ideas as to how police use of force could be minimized.


On this webpage it tries to inform you that abuse by law enforcement officers in the United States is one of the most serious and divisive human rights violations in the country. It goes on to let you know that the violations persist nationwide, in rural, suburban, and urban areas of the country, committed by various law enforcement personnel including local and state police, sheriff's departments, and federal agents. In On this link you become aware that police have engaged in unjustified shootings, severe beatings, fatal choking’s, and unnecessarily rough treatment. You begin to investigate our judicial system and realize while the proportion of repeatedly abusive officers on any force is generally small, responsible authorities including law enforcement supervisors, as well as local and federal government leadership often fail to act decisively to restrain or penalize such acts. It also offered a collection of articles offering fresh and exciting ways of thinking about urban crime and its control. These articles authored by leading African
American criminologists and practitioners, provide critical insights into several of the most pressing crime problems plaguing America’s inner cities. The authors provide incisive and timely examinations of contemporary urban crime issues, including youth violence, gangs, victimization of foreign visitors, and police brutality. They also propose numerous innovative recommendations for crime control and prevention,

I thought this was one of my best sources. It literally had everything on it that dealt with my project. It offered facts about officers that abuse the law. Then when the webpage transitions into the articles that just topped off the entire web page. It presented me with so much information about how African Americans have struggled through the years with law enforcement officials. It gives you an endless amount of stories of encounters with African American individuals and police officers and out of 85% of the stories the only reason that the African American encountered the police officer was because the individual was an African American. I will be using a lot of information from this source.